NEW YORK UNIVERSITY-BELLEVUE MEDICAL CENTER
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
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DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

November 29, 1956

OREGON 9-3200

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

Thanks a lot for letting me know about Boris Rotman. Assuming that I can get a supplementary grant from the government that will take care of his salary, I have written to offer him a position here, and I'm really delighted at the prospect. I've seen enough of him to overcome the obstacle raised by his speech defect, and I'm convinced that he would be a real joy to have around. I'm grateful to you for having taken the trouble to furnish detailed evidence supporting this impression. I hope it works out well.

A version of the DAP manuscript was prepared quite a while ago, but I keep delaying anything further with it while trying to straighten out various details. For one thing, the cells continue to grow in absence of DAP ~~quite~~ a deal longer than in the presence of penicillin, and while they are osmotically more fragile than intact cells they don't look anything like the spherical protoplasts you get with penicillin. This work was based on an arbitrary period of incubation of three of four hours. Now I am trying to see what happens when their growth has come to a halt. On the whole, the last few weeks of work have consisted of pretty dull little details, but I'm compulsive about my feeling that anybody who introduces a method has an obligation to bring it to a reasonable state of perfection. So it will probably be another few weeks before I can send you something.

A side product of this research that I've got very much interested in is the fact that cells decrease enormously in optical density soon after they have been immersed in 20% sucrose. The change takes place over a period of 10-15 minutes, and it is very much slowed by cooling, so it looks to me as though even water transport out of the bacterial cells requires active metabolic work.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Bernie

Bernard D. Davis

Mod. enriched ē
con. hydrol + YE.